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Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

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S E C R E T STATE 189661 TOSEC 080288

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REACHED ON PANAMA

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS MADE BY AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ IN PANAMA AT 6:30 PM (LOCAL TIME) ON AUGUST 10:

"WE ARE DEEPLY GRATIFIED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE AND OUR PANAMANIAN COLLEAGUES HAVE TODAY REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A NEW TREATY -- AND A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. OUR LEGAL SPECIALISTS WILL CONTINUE WORKING TO EXPRESS PROMPTLY THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE FORMAL TREATY.

"THOUGH THIS IS BUT ONE STAGE IN THE COMPLETION OF OUR HISTORIC TASK, IT IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD OUR MUTUAL GOAL. WE WILL BE FLYING BACK TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW AND WILL GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. WE WILL DESCRIBE TO HIM THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE DURING THIS FINAL WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND PRESENT

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FOR HIS REVIEW THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE.

"IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND ARDUOUS TASK, AS YOU KNOW. FOR MORE THAN 13 YEARS, UNDER 4 PRESIDENTS, WE HAVE SOUGHT A NEW AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.
NOW WE HAVE TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD THAT LONG

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SOUGHT GOAL.

"FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS TREATY WILL NOT ONLY PROTECT BUT STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS. IT WILL ALSO BE A STRONGLY POSITIVE ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS AND PRESERVE OUR VITAL COMMON INTERESTS IN AN OPEN, SECURE AND EFFICIENT CANAL."

2. ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 10, ELLSWORTH AND SOL ARE HOLDING A DEEP BACKGROUNDER FOR THE AMERICAN PRESS ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

3. THE U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL ARRIVE AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON AUGUST 11 AT ABOUT 3:00 PM TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MYSELF.

4. THE PRESIDENT, WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT HAVE BEGUN CONTACTING KEY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE. THE CONTACT OPERATION WILL CONTINUE THIS EVENING AND TOMORROW.

5. FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF STATEMENT WHICH WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU MAKE IN SUPPORT OF THE AGREEMENT:

"I AM GREATLY PLEASED THAT THERE IS TODAY AGREEMENT IN
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PRINCIPLE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ON BASIC ELEMENTS OF A NEW TREATY GOVERNING THE PANAMA CANAL. UNITED STATES AMBASSADORS ELLSWORTH BUNKER AND SOL LINOWITZ HAVE LABORED LONG AND DILIGENTLY WITH THEIR PANAMANIAN COUNTERPARTS FOR A TREATY THAT WILL ASSURE AN OPEN, EFFICIENTLY OPERATED, NEUTRAL AND SECURE PANAMA CANAL FOR ALL THE WORLD'S COMMERCE NOW AND FOR YEARS TO COME. I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THEIR EFFORTS WILL PROMPTLY BE EXPRESSED IN THE ELEMENTS OF THE FORMAL TREATY, AND THAT THE RATIFICATION PROCESS IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES CAN PROCEED. IN THAT WAY, THE UNITED STATES' BEST INTEREST WILL BE SERVED. AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PANAMA, THE FUTURE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SECURITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL WILL BE PROTECTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL NATIONS."

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: AGREEMENT REACHED ON PANAMA
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, PN, US, (BUNKER, ELLSWORTH), (LINOWITZ, SOL)
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